



THE
SUTHERS
SCHOOL

A guide to choosing your
Key Stage 4 options

Welcome

As a Year 9 student, you are at an exciting part of your journey at The Suthers School. You now have the chance to select and finalise your option choices for study at Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and 11). We have introduced new subjects in KS4 this year to provide you with various opportunities to excel and enjoy learning.

This is an exciting opportunity for you to make a decision about what you would like to study over the next two years and we will support you to make those right choices. We will provide you with the relevant information, advice and guidance to allow you to make informed decisions. These choices will be a key step towards achieving the amazing outcomes that will help ensure you are successful, happy and have the aspirations to achieve your dreams.

To support your decision making and conversations with parents and carers, we would encourage you to think about how you are currently performing in each subject area and how much you enjoy it. It is also important to think about your future career plans even if these are not fully formed. If

you have a career choice in mind, then please make sure you have carried out your research to know which qualifications those jobs require. You must ensure you also talk to your class teachers and tutor about your thought process as they will also be able to listen and provide you with advice.

It is important to follow your own pathway and not the choices of your peers. Set out in this booklet are the wide range of courses that we offer for study in Year 10 and 11, and some clarification on the difference between GCSE and Cambridge National qualifications. Please take the time to familiarise yourself with these. We endeavour to provide you with further information and the chance to ask any questions during the Options Evening.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any specific questions and we wish you all the best in your decision making. Further details about the courses can be found by visiting the URL link on page 4 or scanning the QR code on page 5 with your smartphone.

GCSE grades 9–1

All GCSE courses have undergone major reforms that include more challenging content, the removal of controlled assessments and a completely new grading system.

In the new GCSEs, assessments in most subjects will be by examination only – there will be no controlled assessments. All examinations will normally be taken in May/June of your final year, Year 11. There will be no modular examinations along the way, so the terminal examinations at the end of Year 11 will count as your full grade. Students who take Cambridge Nationals in Engineering, Sports, Enterprise & Marketing and Health Studies will complete and submit GCSE coursework during Year 10 and 11.

The grading system of 9–1 was introduced for all subjects in 2018 (2017 for English and Maths) and replaced the previous A*–G system. A grade 7 is roughly equivalent in standard to the old A grade and a grade 4 is roughly equivalent in standard to the old C grade. Grade 5 is the standard considered nationally to be a ‘good pass’. Grade 9s will be achieved by the top 30% of the previous A* grade student cohort. Students who study Cambridge Nationals will be graded from a Level 1 Pass to a Level 2 Distinction*.

Raising of Participation Age (RPA)

In 2013, the Government changed the age that young people can leave education or training. You now need to remain in education or training until you are 18 years old. However, this does not mean you will be required to stay in school. There will be three ways in which you can participate post-16:

- Full time education in a school or college
- An apprenticeship
- Part-time accredited learning if you are in full-time employment or volunteering

	Cambridge Nationals	GCSEs (9–1)	GCSEs (A*–G)
Level 2	Distinction*	9	A*
	Distinction	8	A
	Merit	7	B
	Pass	6	C
Level 1	Distinction	5	D
	Merit	4	E
	Pass	3	F
		2	G
		1	

What will I study next year?

You will follow a curriculum comprising of three key elements:

1. **The core curriculum**
2. **An EBacc (English Baccalaureate) Humanities choice**
3. **Optional subjects**

The curriculum at The Suthers School has been designed to enable you to realise your potential in every subject. The changing landscape in education means that the quantity of GCSEs taken is no longer the priority; grade 9–1 GCSEs are very challenging and benefit from extra classroom learning time if you are to be able to access the highest grades.

The core curriculum

When you enter Year 10 in September, you will be studying the following core subjects:

- **English and English Literature** (two GCSE courses)
- **Mathematics**
- **Science** (Combined Science Trilogy – two GCSEs)
- **Physical Education**
- **Personal Development**

An EBacc (English Baccalaureate) Humanities choice

You must choose at least one of the following Humanities subjects to study at GCSE:

- **Geography**
- **History**

Optional subjects

Choose **one** of the optional subjects in Block A only. If you wish to choose both History and Geography, choose History in Block A and Geography in Block B.

You must choose one subject from Block B, C and D. We will encourage as many students as possible to take a language subject.

Further clarification on blocking of these subjects and how to make these choices will be given at the Options Evening on 22 March.

We will ask that you choose reserve subjects in the situation where a subject is over-subscribed.

Electronic course guide

Scan the QR code opposite with your smartphone to view the electronic course guide on The Suthers School website, which contains more detailed information about each of the courses listed here.

Alternatively, you can view the course guide by typing in the following URL:

www.suthersschool.co.uk/options

The guide is fully desktop-, tablet- and mobile-compliant.

If you are unable to access the internet from any device, a printed copy of the course information is available from the school upon request.



Scan to access online course guide

Optional subjects

Block A

- Geography
- History

Block B

- French
- Creative iMedia
- Citizenship
- Geography
- Sport Studies
- Health and Social Care

Block C

- Triple Science
- Music
- Art
- Engineering
- Hospitality and Catering
- Enterprise and Marketing
- Health and Social Care

Block D

- Sport Studies
- Engineering
- Drama
- Enterprise and Marketing
- Hospitality and Catering
- French



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